



In your home economics class, you have a unique opportunity to develop your creativity and your own good taste in home decorating as well as in other aspects of homemaking. If you use this opportunity, you can learn to recognize quality products, distinguish good designs from inferior ones, and gain confidence in your own judgment when you make purchases for your future home.

This booklet is designed to help you develop your taste and talents through learning about fine crystal. It contains basic information and projects that will guide you in selecting crystal and in using it creatively both in table settings and throughout the home.

## Crystal Notes

**A  
PLANNING  
BOOK  
FOR  
STUDENTS**

## What is Crystal?

In Europe, the amount of lead in the mixture of ingredients determines whether or not the final result can be called "crystal." In America, the term is used, by definition, to denote the absence of color, such as "crystal glassware" as compared with "colored glassware." To most people today, crystal simply means fine, handmade glassware, both colored and clear. It is in that sense the word is used in this program.

## Shaping Crystal

In making **hand blown** crystal, a skilled craftsman dips a hollow steel tube into the molten glass, gathering a globule on the end of the tube. A bubble is then blown into the glass that will eventually form the bowl of lovely stemware. The stem and foot are each added after the bowl is blown.

**Hand molded** crystal is shaped by placing the molten glass into a mold and forcing a plunger into it so that when the mold is opened, it reveals the shape of a beautiful bowl, pitcher, or goblet.

## Designs on Crystal

Surface designs on molded crystal are created during the molding process. Decorations and designs on blown crystal are added after the piece has been formed. There are several ways of doing this—all are hand processes:

**Cut crystal**—made by holding the crystal against a rapidly turning wheel that cuts a design into the crystal.

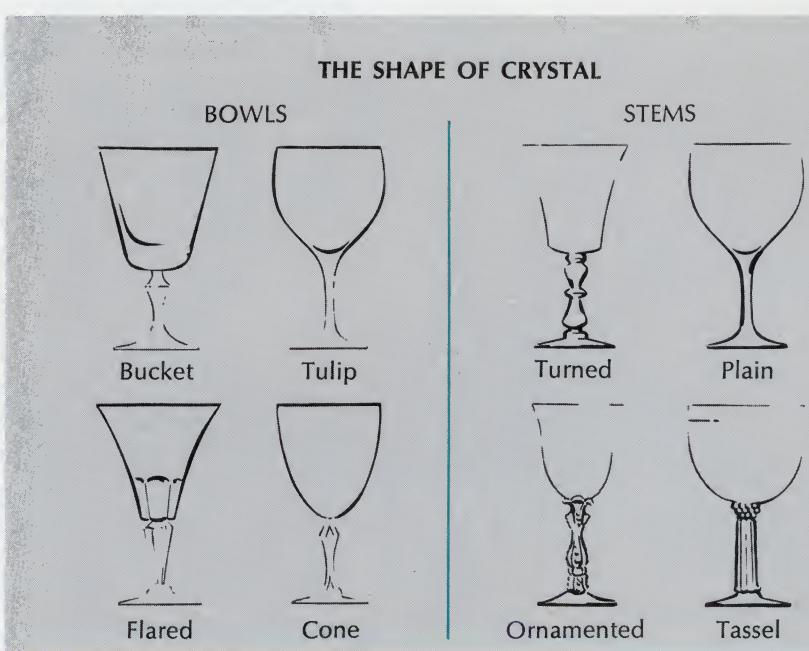
**Etched crystal**—made by covering all the glass except the design with a waxy substance, then dipping the glass in an acid bath. The exposed part of the glass is etched by the acid.

**Painted crystal**—bands of gold or platinum are hand painted on the glass, then the glass is fired, fusing the decoration onto the crystal.

## Bowl and Stem Shapes

Part of the beauty of handmade crystal lies in its structural design. The lines of a goblet's stem usually accent the shape of the bowl and both are in keeping with one another. Look for this harmony of design when you examine fine crystal.

**The Human Factor**—Although the ingredients and their proportions are important in making fine crystal, the vital factor that truly sets crystal apart from ordinary glass is the human element—the sensitive hands, the practiced skill, the knowledge, gained through experience, of the craftsman who fashions handmade crystal. It is this craftsmanship which makes handmade crystal more expensive than machine-made glassware, but which contributes so much to crystal's natural beauty and design.





## Selecting and Buying Crystal

Sparkling, beautiful handmade crystal has a natural brilliance and polish—a “feeling” that ordinary glass simply cannot duplicate. In high-quality crystal, the edges are absolutely smooth. There is no “cloudiness” or any tinge of color, and the crystal has a permanent polish and luster that is outstanding.

It is rare that a glass is entirely free of waves or bubbles, but in crystal they are few and inconspicuous.

The various parts of a crystal piece are beautifully proportioned and coordinated to provide a natural beauty and grace. If crystal is patterned, the design follows the shape of the crystal without any breaks or faults.

Fine crystal rings! Hold a goblet by its foot and snap it with your finger. It rings with a clear, bell-like tone. This is primarily true of handblown stemware, but high quality handmolded stemware, with a lead content, will also ring.

These features are intrinsic to fine crystal made by a reputable manufacturer. Therefore, the best guide to quality and sound value is a well-known brand name.

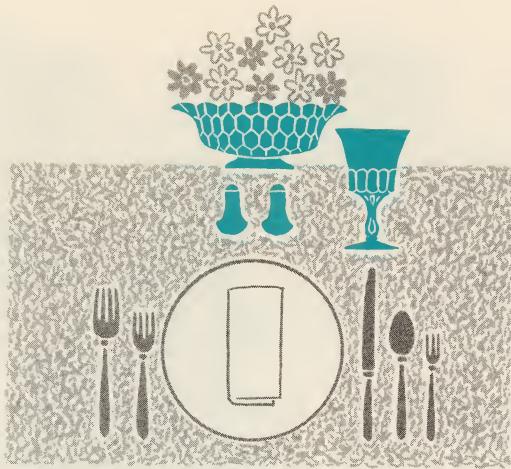
Many young women find it convenient to have two sets of crystal—one for more formal occasions, when important guests are expected, and another for informal parties and family meals. Usually hand blown crystal is chosen for the former, while molded crystal is used for family meals and informal occasions.

Crystal, like china and flatware, is bought in place settings by young moderns. A typical place setting of crystal usually consists of a water goblet, a luncheon or iced beverage goblet, a sherbet, and a dessert/salad plate. Other pieces, such as the footed juice glass, can be added to these basic pieces.

When selecting your crystal, pick crystal made by a well-known manufacturer. Then look at the various types of crystal and study the shapes and the styles carefully before making up your mind.



A Four-piece Place Setting  
in Debutante Pattern



Company Dinner



## On the Table

Often the first and most lasting impression of a beautiful table setting is made by gleaming, sparkling crystal. It gives a lively look and provides a third dimension—height—for what would otherwise be a flat-looking arrangement.

When crystal is used in a place setting on the table there are definite rules as to how it is placed in relation to other table appointments. These are explained below.

Crystal stemware often has many uses other than those for which it was designed. How many can you think of?

**The Water Goblet** is placed on the right of the place setting at the tip of the place knife, or very slightly to the right of the knife if the place setting is crowded.

These goblets make wonderful holders for crisp vegetable relishes, containers for dips, or salad dressing servers. List some other uses:

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**The Luncheon Goblet** has a larger capacity than the water goblet and is designed to hold ice as well as a beverage such as iced tea. It is placed to the right of the water goblet, slightly forward toward the edge of the table, on a diagonal line with the water goblet.

Although it is designed for iced drinks, it's ideal for thick shakes, or as a container for flowers. List some other uses:

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**The Sherbet** is usually placed on a "liner"—a small plate such as the crystal salad/dessert plate. When it's used for the appetizer course—a fruit cup or shrimp cocktail—the sherbet, on the liner, is placed in the center of the service plate. When it's used for the dessert course, the sherbet on its liner is placed directly on the table.

Sherbets make excellent containers for small relishes—olives, gherkins, radishes—bits of cheese and ham, and other nibble foods. Place them all on a tray for easy passing. List some other uses:

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Breakfast



Luncheon



Family Dinner

# DECORATIVE TOUCH

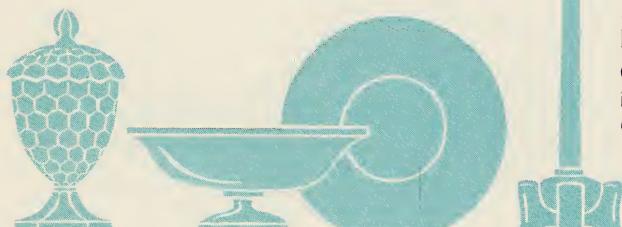
## Throughout the Home

Lovely crystal and the aura of well-being that it creates need not be confined to the dining area. Stemware as well as crystal vases, bowls, dishes, and other accessory pieces can be used decoratively throughout the home. Good composition is the key to any attractive arrangement. The art principles of balance, rhythm, proportion, emphasis, and harmony should be applied in interior decoration just as the artist uses them in creating a beautiful painting. The illustrations on this page apply these principles in good composition and design.



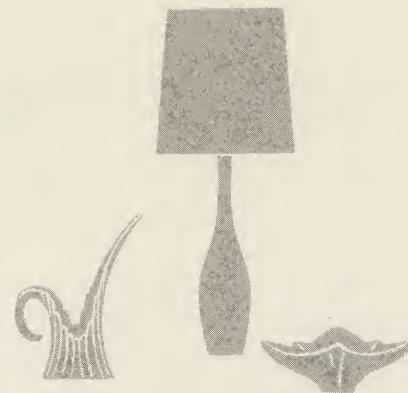
Remember the beauty of a balanced, orderly arrangement. Balance may be formal (as illustrated) or informal.

**Crystal:** Footed Bowl in Coin pattern; 4-inch Candlesticks



Create rhythm or a feeling of movement by using different heights, sizes and shapes.

**Crystal:** Covered Footed Candy Dish in American pattern; 2½-inch Candlestick



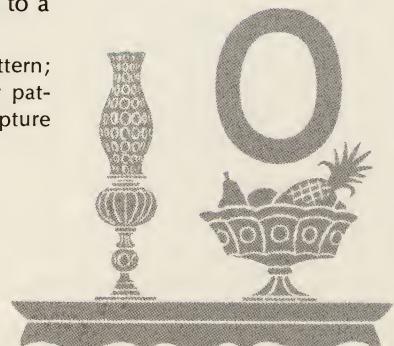
Place objects so that one is emphasized by the others—supply a "focal point" for the arrangement.

**Crystal:** Pitcher Vase in Heirloom pattern; Trindle Bowl in Sculpture pattern



Group smaller objects together so that they will have an interesting relationship with each other and be in proportion to a larger one.

**Crystal:** Ash Tray in Coin pattern; Footed Sugar Bowl in Colony pattern; low Pinch Vase in Sculpture pattern



Strive for harmony in an arrangement, considering not only the arrangement but the surrounding area, too.

**Crystal:** Patio Lamp in Coin pattern; Wedding Bowl in Coin pattern

# Good Combinations in Table Toppers

The beauty of a lovely table does not come from just one item or group of items—it is the table as a whole that creates the impression. Because of this, the three most important elements on the table—crystal, flatware, and china—should be coordinated. This does not mean that they all have to match in pattern, style, or feeling. In fact, many of the most interesting tables result from careful mixing and matching. For example, a combination of very plain china, crystal, and flatware is apt to be dull, while three highly patterned elements tend to be too ornate. However, plain

blown crystal, with a vivid geometric design in china or pottery, and a sculptured design in flatware would make an interesting combination.

**PROJECT:** The four illustrations below show crystal along with one other accessory—you choose the missing one to create a pleasing, tasteful table. Look through magazines for a pattern of china or flatware, as the case may be, that you think will coordinate with the other two. Clip the photograph and paste it in the blank spaces (fold if necessary).

**CRYSTAL**

**A. Silhouette**



**CHINA**



**FLATWARE**

(paste in pattern)

**B. Empress**



(paste in pattern)

**C. Wedding Ring**



(paste in pattern)



**D. Rosalie**



(paste in pattern)



Which of the four combinations shown above do you like best? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you like this one best? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Keep Your Crystal Clear

Fine crystal—like all good things—deserves and should get a little extra attention to preserve its original beauty. Hand crafted crystal, despite its look of delicate beauty, will last for many, many years if properly cared for.

## CLEANING CRYSTAL

**Hand washing:** Keep your crystal sparkling by washing it after each use. Use moderately hot water and a mild detergent. Wash crystal first so that grease from flatware and china doesn't form a dulling film on the glass. Never put too many glasses in the sink or dishpan at one time—they are apt to knock against one another.



Prevent chipping by laying a towel or rubber mat in the sink or dishpan. And drain crystal on a rubber mat or dish rack or on a towel-covered drain board. Rinse crystal with hot, but not boiling or scalding, water. If glasses are still cold from an iced beverage, let them warm a bit, or rinse them with lukewarm water before putting them in the hot wash water.

**Machine washing:** If you use an automatic dishwasher, keep these facts in mind:

- Careless arrangement of crystal in a dishwasher can result in breakage. Some economy types of dishwashers, which do not have coated racks, may cause undue breakage.
- Strong detergents and high temperatures in dishwashers can soften gold and platinum decorations. Wiping glassware when it is hot may remove some of the metal. Let it return to room temperature.
- If water is hard, or an unusual amount of minerals are present, it is possible that a whitish-gray film may be "baked on" the surface of the glass during the drying cycle. As soon as any film appears, remove it by soaking, then scrubbing in a vinegar solution. If the film is allowed to accumulate, it can become permanent.

### Other cleaning hints:

- Rubbing stains with a lemon half will sometimes remove them.
- Lime deposits in water pitchers and bottles can often be removed with tea leaves soaked in vinegar.

Put the tea leaf-vinegar mixture in the bottle and add some uncooked rice. Shake vigorously until the stains disappear.

- The brown deposit often found in vinegar cruets is removed effectively with a dilute ammonia solution.
- Rinse milk glasses with cool water before washing. The sooner the glass is rinsed the easier it is to clean.
- Flower vases and bowls should be washed frequently. A solution of laundry bleach not only cleans but deodorizes, too.
- Do not pry apart tumblers or glass bowls that have stuck together. They come apart easily if the inner glass is filled with cold water and the outer one is placed in warm water.
- Use a soft brush on deeply cut and hand molded crystal to get into the deep places.

## STORAGE

No special storage racks or cabinets are needed to store crystal. In fact, crystal pieces may be kept on a book shelf, serving the purpose of being decorative, too. If crystal is stored on a shelf or in an open cabinet, it will need washing occasionally to keep it lustrous and sparkling. Note the following precautions:

- Store crystal rim up and never crowd—allow a little space around each piece.
- Never stack fine crystal—the space saved is not worth the damage that might be done.
- Stemware and tumblers should be stored by type, arranging like glasses in rows, front to back. When stored in this fashion, it will not be necessary to reach over one piece to get to another.

**Home Project:** With your parents' permission, line a crystal storage cabinet with wallpaper or fabric. Report on the project, showing swatches of fabric or wallpaper used, and colored paper to represent the color scheme of the room.





Fostoria Glass Company has been associated with fine glassware since 1887 when it was founded. At first known for its pressed or hand molded items, Fostoria has gradually assumed pre-eminence in the field of hand blown stemware. Today, the name Fostoria is synonymous with well designed and quality hand blown and hand molded crystal.

**Fostoria** GLASS CO.  
MOUNDSVILLE, W. VA.